



8.00AM, Monday, 30 March 2020

LATEST MESSAGE FOR RESIDENTS FROM THE SHIRE OF CARNAMAH

To our community,

I hope you are all managing as well as possible under the serious circumstances we now find ourselves in.

We are all living under restrictions that we wouldn't normally tolerate but we must learn to accept them as necessary evils in the war against COVID-19.

Some of you might still think that our communities are immune to the humanitarian crises affecting other parts of the world. If we ignore the new rules and guidelines, we could easily suffer the same fate as countries like Italy and Spain.

On the other hand, if we follow some simple rules, we can get through this pandemic without wide scale panic and death. Here are the basic rules:

- **Stay at home** unless you need to shop for essentials, are seeking medical attention, are exercising, or are going to work.
- Maintain a **distance of 1.5 – 2 metres** from others.
- **Cough into the inside of you elbow** rather than into your hand. And never cough over someone else.
- **Do not gather in groups**, whether in people's homes, in other buildings or outside.
- **Regularly use hand sanitiser** or, if you have run out, **soap and water**.
- Parents need to ensure that, **if their children are not at school, they remain at home** and do not mix with their friends.

Some other important information:

- The Shire is considered to be the provider of a number of essential services. Rubbish collection will continue. Roads maintenance will continue. You can still contact us on 9951 7000 or at shire@carnamah.wa.gov.au . **We request that you contact us in advance if you are considering visiting us at the office.**
- The Shire has closed all libraries, the Eneabba sub-office, all public toilets except for those at Yarra Park and opposite the Eneabba Roadhouse, the Carnamah Caravan Park (except chalets) and all campsites, the Town Hall, Recreation Centres in both towns, both pools and all playgrounds.
- The North Midlands Project has closed down its physical facilities until the pandemic is over but they have spent a lot of time putting together some online resources to keep people busy at home. Their Creative @ Home website can be found at <https://www.northmidlands.org.au/creative-at-home>.
- As of midnight Tuesday, we will all be restricted from travelling outside the Mid West region. Exceptions include:
 - Work purposes
 - Medical reasons
 - Other essential services
 - Compassionate grounds

Health matters:

- If you feel unwell, self-isolate or put simply, stay at home.
- Contact the COVID-19 hotline on 1800 020 080 to seek advice.
- If you require urgent medical assistance, dial 000 as you would normally.

Should you be out of work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, please contact www.treasury.gov.au to find out about household support payments and income support for individuals. In addition, please register with the Shire at shire@carnamah.wa.gov.au. If you are an employer and you are seeking additional employees, please let us know as well so we can try to match jobseekers with employers.

The Shire is also lobbying hard with State and Federal governments to ensure that our supermarkets receive a fair go from wholesalers. We have made them aware that supplies can't just go to Coles and Woolworths – they must be fairly distributed to rural supermarkets as well. I will let you know more about this when additional information is to hand.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us on 9951 7000 or via shire@carnamah.wa.gov.au. Please also monitor our website and facebook page as these are being updated regularly.

Remember, we do not need to panic – we just need to follow the rules and take care.

Thank you for paying attention.



Vin Fordham Lamont

Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Carnamah